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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician

March Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.2 million acres in 2003, down 2 percent from last year but 1 percent above 2001. Of these acres, 40 percent are expected to be planted to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, 11 percent to herbicide resistant varieties and 4 percent to stacked gene varieties, compared to 34 percent, 9 percent and 4 percent respectively a year ago. Nebraska soybean producers expect to plant 4.65 million acres in 2003. This would be the third highest of record, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent below the record high set in 2001. Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.75

million acres, up 6 percent from a year earlier but equal to two years ago. Sorghum growers expect to plant 650,000 acres, 44 percent more than 2002, up 18 percent from 2001 and the largest total in five years. Hay acreage for harvest, at 3.1 million acres, would be down 5 percent from last year. Oat planting intentions at 190,000 acres are up 9 percent from 2002. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 160,000 acres, down 14 percent from a year earlier. Sugar beet plantings of 42,000 acres would be down 26 percent from 2002. Sunflower planting intentions of 60,000 acres are up 3 percent.

Crop Summary: Acres Planted, Nebraska and United States, 2001-2003

Crop	Nebraska				United States			
	2001	2002	Inten- tions 2003 ¹	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>	2001	2002	Inten- tions 2003 ¹	<u>2003</u> <u>2002</u>
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Corn	8,100	8,400	8,200	98	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Soybeans	4,950	4,700	4,650	99	74,075	73,758	73,182	99
Sorghum	550	450	650	144	10,252	9,580	9,451	99
Oats	155	175	190	109	4,403	5,005	4,828	96
Oats for Grain	60	55	65	118	1,905	2,098	2,204	105
Barley	5	6	5	83	4,967	5,073	5,379	106
Dry Beans	160	185	160	86	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79
Sugar Beets	48.6	57.0	42.0	74	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98
All Hay ²	3,250	3,250	3,100	95	63,521	64,497	63,552	99
All Wheat	1,750	1,650	1,750	106	59,597	60,358	61,697	102
Winter Wheat	1,750	1,650	1,750	106	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Sunflower - Oil	52	45	40	89	2,117	2,125	2,123	100
- Non-oil	30	13	20	154	516	460	394	86
- All	82	58	60	103	2,633	2,585	2,517	97

¹Intended plantings as indicated by reports from farmers. ²Intended acres for harvest as indicated by reports from farmers.
Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 28, 2003.

Grain Stocks

Nebraska corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003, totaled 596 million bushels, down 16 percent from March 1, 2002. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 77 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year. Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 36 million bushels, down 30 percent from a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003, totaled 5.13 billion bushels, down 11 percent from March 1, 2002. Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 1.20 billion bushels, down 10 percent from last year. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2003, totaled 905 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago.

Grain Stocks: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 2001-2003

Grain and Position	Nebraska				United States			
	March 1, 2001	March 1, 2002	March 1, 2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	March 1, 2001	March 1, 2002	March 1, 2003	<u>2003</u> 2002
	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Corn								
On Farms	410,000	410,000	325,000	79	3,600,000	3,355,000	2,940,000	88
Off Farms ¹	276,714	297,176	270,722	91	2,442,999	2,440,263	2,192,318	90
Total	686,714	707,176	595,722	84	6,042,999	5,795,263	5,132,318	89
All Wheat								
On Farms	7,200	8,000	4,500	56	384,750	338,500	233,200	69
Off Farms ¹	47,687	43,091	31,039	72	953,648	871,268	671,667	77
Total	54,887	51,091	35,539	70	1,338,398	1,209,768	904,867	75
Soybeans								
On Farms	34,000	27,000	31,000	115	780,000	687,000	635,500	93
Off Farms ¹	59,677	66,041	46,213	70	623,908	648,987	566,308	87
Total	93,677	93,041	77,213	83	1,403,908	1,335,987	1,201,808	90
Sorghum								
On Farms	7,900	6,000	4,000	67	40,100	38,100	27,500	72
Off Farms ¹	20,313	17,911	14,506	81	127,027	156,007	135,312	87
Total	28,213	23,911	18,506	77	167,127	194,107	162,812	84
Oats								
On Farms	800	900	900	100	55,800	40,200	35,000	87
Off Farms ¹	²	²	²		54,128	53,158	47,438	89
Total	²	²	²		109,928	93,358	82,438	88

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Source: USDA NASS Grain Stocks, March 31, 2003.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary March 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Mar 2002 ¹	Feb 2003 ¹	Mar 15, 2003	Mar 2002 ¹	Feb 2003 ¹	Mar 15, 2003	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
Wheat	Bushels	\$ 2.69	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.35	\$ 2.87	\$ 3.68	\$ 3.49	36	\$ 9.71
Corn	Bushels	1.93	2.34	2.30	1.94	2.34	2.30	35	6.64
Oats	Bushels	2.07	2.44	2.30	1.99	2.09	1.94	47	4.15
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	3.22	4.35	4.11	3.23	4.14	3.97	35	11.20
Soybeans	Bushels	4.27	5.45	5.46	4.38	5.55	5.58	38	14.50
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	61.00	84.00	81.00	92.30	91.80	92.80		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	62.00	84.00	82.00	99.60	96.40	96.20		
Other, Baled	Ton	57.00	82.00	76.00	72.70	79.40	82.30		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	19.80	16.60	16.20	27.10	19.40	15.50	31	50.70
Hogs	Cwt.	38.70	36.50	37.20	36.00	34.30	35.00	34	103.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	38.90	36.80	37.50	36.30	34.90	35.60		
Sows	Cwt.	31.00	23.90	24.50	30.00	23.20	24.20		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	73.00	76.30	75.40	70.60	74.00	72.20	45	161.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	74.00	77.40	76.50	74.10	78.10	76.20		
Cows	Cwt.	41.10	39.80	41.10	41.50	38.90	39.80		
Calves	Cwt.	108.00	99.30	97.90	105.00	97.30	96.40	44	217.00
Sheep	Cwt.	31.30	42.00		31.80	43.60			79.40
Lambs	Cwt.	68.20	94.50		66.70	92.40			186.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for March 2003.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, March 28, 2003.

Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 2.85 million head. This was 5 percent below March 2002 and 3 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 375,000 head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002 but 3 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory was 5 percent below last year.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 58.1 million head on March 1, 2003. This was 2 percent below last year and 2 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory was 2 percent below last year.

Hogs and Pigs: March 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2002-2003

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
March 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	3,000	2,850	95	59,248	58,107	98
Breeding	390	375	96	6,236	5,956	96
Market	2,610	2,475	95	53,011	52,151	98
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	1,070	1,000	93	19,487	19,110	98
60-119 pounds	680	610	90	12,975	12,655	98
120-179 pounds	500	470	94	11,172	10,894	98
180 pounds and over	360	395	110	9,377	9,492	101
Sows Farrowing						
December-February ¹	170	175	103	2,836	2,767	98
March-May	175	175 ²	100	2,943	2,842 ²	97
June-August	165	175 ²	106	2,887	2,792 ²	97
September-November	170			2,817		
Total Sows Farrowing	680			11,483		
Pig Crop						
December-February ¹	1,496	1,531	102	24,794	24,374	98
March-May	1,575			25,959		
June-August	1,485			25,700		
September-November	1,539			24,892		
Total Pig Crop ³	6,095			101,344		

¹ December preceding year.

² Intentions.

³ May not add due to rounding.

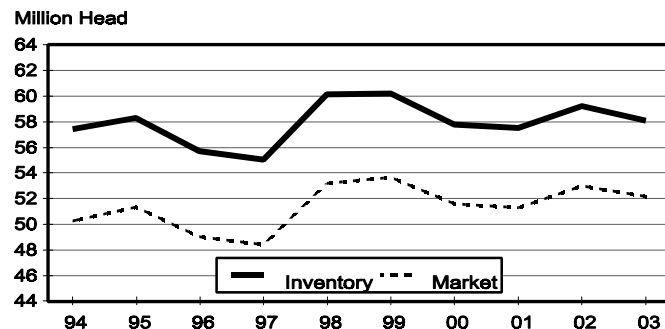
Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, March 28, 2003.

March 1 Hog Report Highlights

- * U.S. inventory down 2 percent from March 2002. Expectations of private forecasters averaged 98 percent of the previous year with a range of 97.0 percent to 100.3 percent.
- * Market hogs were down 2 percent from a year earlier. Private forecasters' expectations ranged from 97.1 percent to 100.5 percent with an average of 99 percent.
- * Breeding herd was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Expectations of private forecasters ranged from 95.4 percent to 99.3 percent with an average of 96 percent.
- * U.S. December-February pig crop was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Analysts expected the pig crop to be 99 percent of previous year; estimates ranged from 97.2 percent to 99.3 percent.
- * March-May intentions are down 3 percent from actual farrowings a year earlier. June-August intentions are down 3 percent from the previous years actual farrowings.

*Commercial hog slaughter during December-February at 25.1 million head was 2 percent above a year earlier. Live hog imports were 1.47 million head, unchanged from a year earlier. Total exports increased to 63,000 head, compared to 59,000 a year ago.

March 1 Hog Inventory & Market Hogs United States



Commercial Livestock Slaughter

February 2003 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 2002 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, February 2003 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	Feb 2003 Percent of	
		Feb 2002	Jan 2003
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	539.6	96	84
Hogs, head	538.1	102	87
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	538.5	97	83
United States			
Cattle, head	2,569.8	98	85
Calves, head	83.1	114	89
Hogs, head	7,680.3	102	87
Sheep & Lambs, head	224.2	86	94
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,496.5	100	86

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, March 21, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, February 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Feb 2003 Percent of	
		Feb 2002	Jan 2003
1,000 Lbs			
Total red meats	980,716	101	97
Beef	442,967	101	92
Pork	519,464	102	101
Poultry	1,158,685	100	101
Turkey	478,862	116	113
Chicken	674,688	92	93

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, March 20, 2003.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, February 2003 with Comparisons

Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.6	11.7	101
30 States	317.0	315.8	100
United States	338.0	338.2	100
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	220	237	108
30 States	6,164	6,180	100
United States	6,581	6,617	101
Chickens Hatched, February			
United States			
Egg-type	34.3	30.0	87
Broiler	702.6	694.6	99

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, March 21, 2003.

NEW PRODUCT AVAILABLE

A new product - Cropland Data Layer map for Nebraska depicting distribution of 2002 crops is now available on CD Rom. Order it at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm> or call 1-800-727-9540.

Also, it is not too late to complete and return Census forms.

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